

Application/Control Number: 10/827,259
Art Unit: 2187
January 12, 2007
Page 3

Remarks

It is observed that the Examiner rejected pending claims 1-6 as being unpatentable over Fredriksson in view of Davidson.

Accordingly, the applicant has amended claim 1 so as to overcome the Examiner's objections.

In particular, the explicative drawing herewith reported illustrates the differences between the applicant's claimed method and the Fredriksson method. The drawing illustrates the configuration of the device that is obtainable by means of the method of the invention.

The applicant's invention as claimed in claim 1 provides for a universal address that is assigned during production of a peripheral device, a logic address that is assigned by the host or master to each peripheral device, and an identification number that is assigned by the user to correctly identify each peripheral device.

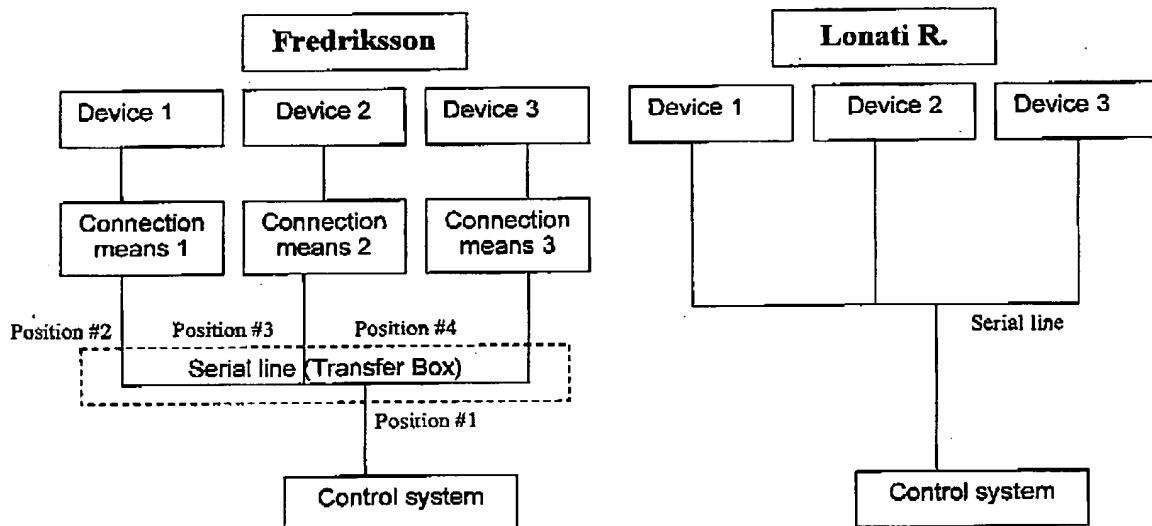
These three addresses (only two if there are not two identical peripheral devices and thus the identification number is not strictly necessary) allow a correct and secure identification of the peripheral devices.

Application/Control Number: 10/827,259

Art Unit: 2187

January 12, 2007

Page 4



Communication occurs directly by means of a serial line, without any transfer box or connection means between the peripheral device and the host or master, as instead is disclosed and illustrated in Fredriksson.

This is clearly indicated in the applicant's invention on page 5, lines 5-6 of the specification as originally filed wherein it is stated that the sensor is connected, by way of the serial line, to the mast. Thus, the applicant has amended claim 1 to indicate that the peripheral devices communicate directly with the machine over a serial line, thus without the interposition of any additional means.

This arrangement enhances the flexibility of the whole system with respect to Fredriksson.

In fact, in Fredriksson if a peripheral device is added or removed or their location is changed, the entire system has to be re-configured.

Application/Control Number: 10/827,259

Art Unit: 2187

January 12, 2007

Page 5

On the contrary, in the applicant's claimed method, each peripheral device can be connected directly at any place of the network without any connection means and transfer box or the like.

Thus, if the skilled man in the art would look at Fredriksson he would not derive the teaching of having peripheral devices directly connected, by means of a serial line, to the knitting machine.

In addition, a further and important feature of the applicant's invention is the presence of three addresses adapted to uniquely identify each peripheral device.

This feature is not present in Fredriksson since no combination of universal address and logic address is mentioned. The applicant has carefully read the passages of Fredriksson indicated by the Examiner but did not find any useful hint that could even lead to suppose that the above combination is present. The only address that is cited by Fredriksson is an address that is assigned to the peripheral device by the system.

On the contrary, as discussed above, the applicant's claimed method discloses the combination of three distinct addresses: the universal address, the logic address and the identification number assigned by the user.

Looking now at Davidson, even if the skilled man in the art would have combined the teachings of Fredriksson with the teachings of Davidson, he would not end up with a method as claimed in present claim 1.

In fact, Davidson only discloses that the universal address is assigned at the manufacturing time (as correctly indicated by the Examiner), but does not teach an identification number assigned by the user.

As can be seen from column 1, lines 8-11, Davidson just aims at avoiding the manual numbering by the user or operator, in clear contrast with the applicant's invention.

Application/Control Number: 10/827,259
Art Unit: 2187
January 12, 2007
Page 6

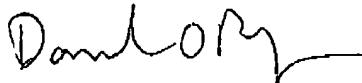
Accordingly, Davidson does not provide any useful teaching with regard to identification of a plurality of identical peripheral devices, problem that is solved by the applicant using a manually assigned identification number.

In view of the above, neither Fredriksson and Davidson taken alone nor in combination would render obvious the applicant's invention as claimed in newly amended claim 1. Thus, allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

It will be noted that a sincere effort has been made to positively respond to all of the points raised by the Examiner.

While it is believed that the amended claims properly define the present invention, applicant would be open to any suggestion the Examiner may have concerning different claim phraseology which, in the Examiner's opinion, more accurately defines the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,



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